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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC 25th Inf Regt

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire

REMARKS

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1. The 25th Inf Regt, cover No 8145, was stationed in Harmanli (B 14/G 47) prior to 20 January 1950. The regiment was commanded by Colonel Vasilyeff, (fnu) and assigned to the 2d Thracian Div in Haskova. The barracks of the regiment in Harmanli also housed a border guard unit.
2. The regiment was organized into the regimental headquarters, the I, II, III and IV Bns and a signal unit. Each battalion had two companies, the companies consisting of three platoons of about 40 men each. The I Bn was commanded by Major Galabor, (fnu), who was about 40 years old and a graduate of the partisan school in Sofia in 1946. The II Bn was commanded by Captain Russev, (fnu), about 38 years old and also a graduate of the partisan school. The 1st Co of the battalion had about 120 men and was organized into three platoons. The company was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Semoff, (fnu), It was armed with Soviet rifles, model 1946 and Soviet submachine guns. Each platoon also had two Czech light 7-92-mm machine guns and one Maxim heavy machine gun. The III Bn, a machine gun battalion, was commanded by Major Vasilyev, (fnu), about 32 years of age and a member of the Communist Party. The IV Bn was organized into a mortar and an AT gun platoon and was commanded by Major Stanisev, (fnu). The signal component of the regiment was under the command of Major Strenoff. (1)
3. The 25th Inf Regt participated in field exercises at Dragoman (B 1/L 09) near the Yugoslav border in March 1949. The field

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training included the construction of emplacements, shelters and wire entanglements. The regiment held exercises with a so-called 1st Obstoivojskov Regt, cover No 9005, which belonged to the First Army and had been activated in late 1948 and early 1949. (2) The units maneuvering in the Dragoman area also included elements of the Bulgarian 1st Tank Div, a Soviet tank battalion and a Soviet motorized battalion. (3) and (4).

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Comments

- (1) A similar organization was previously reported. It seems doubtful that machine gun and heavy weapons units should be of battalion strength.
- (2) Correct translation is not possible. Obstoi possibly means defense; the unit could be an AT artillery regiment.
- (3) Probably Soviet instruction units.
- (4) Concerning paragraph 11 of the attached questionnaire, personnel of the 1923 to 1926 classes were probably re-enlistees who remained in active service with the army as NCOs.

1. Annex: Manpower questionnaire.

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